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From: Wise, Barbara K [Barbara_K_Wise@RL.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 8:36 AM
To: HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
Subject: TPA: Development of Hanford's FY 2008 Budget

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This is a message from the Tri-Party Agencies:

Development of Hanford's FY 2008 Budget**We want to hear from you****Background**

The Hanford Site located in southeastern Washington State was established during World War II to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. In 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), Washington State Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (the Tri-Party Agreement). The agreement outlines a plan to bring the site into environmental regulatory compliance while cleaning up Hanford legacy waste. Today the site is engaged in one of the world's largest programs to clean up radioactive and hazardous wastes.

USDOE has two offices at Hanford that are conducting cleanup activities, the Office of River Protection (ORP) and the Richland Operations Office (RL). ORP established in 1998 manages waste retrieval from, and closure of, the 177 underground waste tanks, and construction of a waste treatment plant that will turn radioactive and chemical wastes into a stable glass form for disposal. RL is responsible for cleaning up the balance of the Hanford weapons production legacy – spent nuclear fuel, remaining plutonium, all buried and solid wastes and Hanford Site facilities large and small.

Cleanup Progress and Remaining Challenges

Our cleanup strategy remains focused on removing the sources impacting the groundwater, reducing the risk to the Columbia River and meeting our regulatory commitments. Today, two of Hanford's most urgent risks have been eliminated – more than 2,300 tons of spent nuclear fuel were packaged and moved away from the Columbia River and 20 tons of plutonium materials were stabilized and packaged for shipment off the Hanford site. However, despite our recent successes and significant progress in cleanup, a lot of tough work remains. We'll be working hard to address a number of complex and critical issues.

Progress

- More than 2,300 tons of spent nuclear fuel were packaged and moved away from the Columbia River.
- 20 tons of plutonium-bearing materials were stabilized and packaged for eventual disposal offsite.
- Five of nine plutonium reactors were partially demolished and placed in interim safe storage.
- More than 6.3 million tons of contaminated soil were dug up along the Columbia River and disposed of in the disposal facility in the middle of the Hanford Site.
- Thousands of drums of transuranic waste were dug up and safely shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project permanent disposal facility located in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- Construction of the Waste Treatment Plant is one-third complete.
- Over 3 million gallons of liquids were removed from single-shell tanks.
- Sludge or salt waste was retrieved from three single-shell tanks and four others are in progress.
- Bulk Vitrification is being tested as a supplemental waste-treatment technology.

Scope of the Cleanup

- More than 50 million gallons of liquid radioactive waste remain in 174 aging, underground storage tanks.
- 25 million cubic feet of solid waste are buried or stored on site.
- 270 billion gallons of groundwater are contaminated above drinking-water standards spread out over about 80 square miles.
- More than 1,700 waste sites and approximately 500 contaminated facilities need to be remediated.

Near-Term Challenges

- Characterize and assess deep subsurface contamination and its impact to Central Plateau groundwater.
 - Conduct treatability studies and implement remedies to mitigate impact to Central Plateau groundwater.
 - Address River Corridor/300 Area uranium groundwater plume
 - Remove the radioactive "sludge" from the bottom of the K Reactor Basins along the Columbia River – this work is proving more difficult than anticipated and is taking longer.
 - Retrieve transuranic waste from burial grounds - more degraded drums of suspect transuranic waste are being retrieved from older sections of our waste trenches.
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- Continue to change the Hanford skyline with the cleanup and demolition of several facilities in the River Corridor in 2006.
 - Consolidate and disposition special nuclear materials off the Hanford Site.
 - Continue retrieval of sludge and salt waste from single-shell tanks.
 - Continue construction of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.
 - Continue investigation of supplemental technologies (Tank Waste Treatment) and new groundwater technologies.

Long-Term Challenges

- Meeting milestones and schedule commitments with continued and consistent Hanford funding
- Closing Hanford tanks
- Protecting the Columbia River and ensuring long-term stewardship

The USDOE has a three-year budget process: 1) the allocated budget that funds current year (2006) cleanup work (\$1.8 billion); 2) the 2007 budget request recently sent by the President to Congress for review and approval; and 3) development of a budget request for 2008 cleanup work that will be sent to DOE-Headquarters. DOE ORP and RL are required to prepare an annual budget submittal that is consistent and meets the requirements of the Tri-Party Agreement.

How You Can Become Involved and Provide Your Input

The Tri-Party agencies encourage you to participate in the development of the 2008 budget request by sharing your values and priorities for Hanford cleanup. What is your highest priority? Is there work that can be delayed in an effort to accelerate the cleanup of other work? We need to hear from you. Public comments help the USDOE, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency consider public values and issues as decisions are made regarding Hanford Site cleanup and compliance.

The public is invited to give comments on the budget, cleanup progress and priorities through various forums. The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies will conduct local and regional outreach efforts to existing Hanford stakeholders and the broader public. An evening budget public workshop with the representatives of the Tri-Party Agencies will be held in Richland, WA:

March 27, 2006 5:30 p.m.

Red Lion Hanford House

802 George Washington Way

In addition to the Richland public workshop, there will be regional outreach opportunities to discuss the budget and hear about Hanford cleanup priorities. Meetings are being scheduled in the Eastern Washington, Portland, Seattle, or Hood River area. A TPA representative will present the various agency perspectives on the budget, cleanup and priorities. The input received at these meetings along with other comments submitted will be captured and made available on the budget webpage located on www.hanford.gov under the Public Involvement section. The regulatory agencies perspective will also be made available on the website. Responses to the comments received will be provided after the budget comment period ends on June 2, 2006. The comments and responses will be posted on the budget webpage. The webpage can be accessed Monday, March 27.

To obtain more information about or to schedule an outreach activity in your area, contact:

For the Portland/Oregon area:

US DOE Office of River Protection

Erik Olds, 509-372-8656 or

theodore_e_olds@orp.gov

For Eastern Washington area:

US DOE Richland Operations Office

Karen Lutz, 509-376-4766 or karen_lutz@rl.gov

For the Hood River/Oregon area:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dennis Faulk, (509) 376-8631 or

faulk.dennis@epa.gov

For the Seattle/Western Washington area:

Washington State Department of Ecology

Nolan Curtis, 509-372-7954 or

ncur461@ecy.wa.gov

For more information on the budget process visit the USDOE budget website located at www.hanford.gov under the Public Involvement section. This webpage contains additional budget information and provides members of the public the opportunity to submit an electronic budget comment. Input received from the various Tri-Party Agency outreach efforts will be posted on the budget website. Comments will be accepted through June 2, 2006. Public input will be considered in the development of the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request for the Hanford site. You can submit comments in writing, electronically, or by fax. Comments should be submitted to:

Karen Lutz

U.S. Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office

P.O. Box 550, Mailstop A3-04

Richland, Washington 99352

Fax: (509)376-1563

Email: Karen_Lutz@rl.gov

OR

Erik Olds

U.S. Department of Energy

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Richland, Washington 99352

Fax: (509) 376-8142

Email: theodore_e_erik_olds@orp.doe.gov

Also, comments can be submitted electronically on the budget website located

at www.hanford.gov under the Public Involvement section.